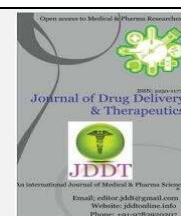


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Research Article

Preparation and Characterization of Nanomicelle for Ocular delivery of fluoroquinolone derivative

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ABSTRACT

Pluronic nanomicelles were prepared for Ocular delivery by incorporation of methyl alcohol as a dispersing agent and the surface was modifying by chitosan to improve the bioavailability. Nanomicelle dispersed well in solution and having a core shell-like structure with particle range from 100-350 nm and zeta potential between 5.45mV -18.98mV indicating very suitable use as an ophthalmic carrier. The turbidity test reveals that the prepared nanomicelle were very stable under simulated tear fluid environment and simulated tear fluid, which prevent the blurred vision. The drug entrapment of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride in nanomicelle was too much high 98.07 ± 6.8040 . Finally, the drug release indicates the Pluronic nanomicelle modify by chitosan have sustained release behavior. As a result of Pluronic-Chitosan nanomicelle system provide a potential opportunity in decreasing dosing frequency of administration and improving patient compliance for ocular drug delivery.

Keywords: Chitosan, Nanomicelle, Ocular delivery system, Poloxamer 407.

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INTRODUCTION

Ocular diseases are usually treated with topical application of eye drops; however, this method is impeded by poor ocular bioavailability.¹ Mainly due to this protective characteristic of the ocular biological barriers. Typically, less than 5% of the drug applied penetrates the cornea and reaches the intraocular tissue. As a result, a frequent dosing regimen is typically necessary to achieve the therapeutic effect. The topical conveyance of eye is more favored when contrasted with different courses of the organization as through oral for treatment of contamination or any illness in the eye the portion ought to be too high, and the impact will likewise be postponed.² While discussing eye both hydrophilic and hydrophobic parts demonstrate poor penetration in the eye and bringing about under 10% assimilation in the front section of the eye. Micelles consist of amphiphilic molecules that, generally, self-assemble in aqueous media to form organized supramolecular structures. Micelles are framed in a different size (10–1000 nm) and shapes (round, tube-shaped, star-molded, and so on.) contingent upon the atomic weights of the center and crown shaping squares.³ oneself get together happens after a specific fixation, alluded to as basic micelle focus (CMC). The power driving the self-get together and support of supramolecular get together is hydrophobic cooperation's of center framing obstructs, for a run of the mill micellar structures. The crown framing square is water dissolvable that renders micelles solvent in the

watery stage. Taking the benefit of the hydrophobic centre, the nanocarriers can be used to improve the water solvency of hydrophobic atoms.⁴ Poloxamer square copolymers have been abused in pharmaceutical definitions for solubilization of ineffectively water-dissolvable medications.⁵ Poloxamers comprise of an ethylene oxide hydrophilic centre and polypropylene oxide hydrophobic centre squares organized in a tri-square structure bringing about an amphiphilic structure.⁶ Their capacity to self-total, accordingly framing micelles and fluid crystalline stages and more noteworthy hydrophilicity is another favorable position for the solubilization of dissolvable to ineffectively water-solvent medications. For medication conveyance purposes, hydrophobic medications might be solubilized within the center of the micelle or conjugated to the micelle-shaping a polymer. These amphiphilic copolymers are accessible in various evaluations as poloxamer 407.⁷

Chitosan is a straight polysaccharide made of arbitrarily appropriated β -(1-4)- connected D-glucosamine (deacetylated unit) and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (acetylated unit). It is made by treating shrimp and other scavenger shells with the antacid sodium hydroxide. Chitosan has a few businesses and conceivable biomedical employment.⁸ Fluoroquinolones are expansive range anti-toxins (powerful for both Gram-negative and Gram-positive microbes) that assume a vital job in the treatment of genuine bacterial contaminations, particularly clinic obtained diseases and

others in which protection from more seasoned antibacterial classes is suspected. In light of the fact that the utilization of a wide range of anti-infection agents supports the spread of multidrug-resistant strains and the advancement of *Clostridium difficile* contaminations, treatment rules.⁹ Fluoroquinolones are regularly utilized for genitourinary diseases and are generally utilized in the treatment of clinic procured contaminations related to urinary catheters. In people group gained contaminations, they are suggesting just when chance variables for multidrug obstruction are available or after other anti-infection regimens have fizzled. Be that as it may, for genuine intense instances of pyelonephritis or bacterial prostatitis where the patient may be hospitalized, fluoroquinolones are prescribed as first-line treatment.

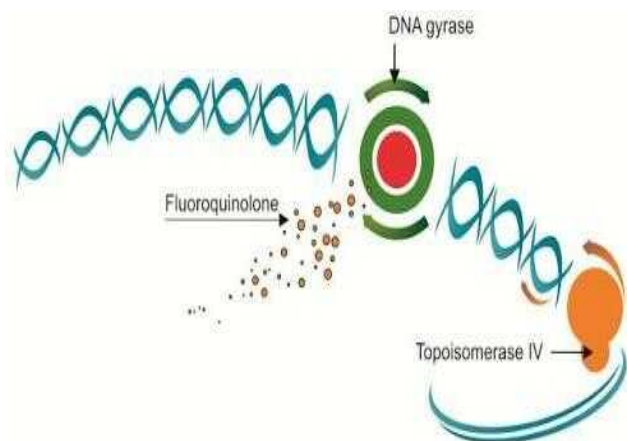


Figure 1: Mechanism of action of Fluoroquinolones

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials-

Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride (drug) was a gift sample from Maxchem Pharma from Rudarpur, Kolliphor®P 407 (Poloxamer 407) was procured from Sigma Aldrich, Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA, 15,000 Da) and glutaraldehyde (GA) were procured from CDH, Span 20 and Water-soluble Chitosan (degree of deacetylation 75%) was procured from Sigma Aldrich, Sodium chloride and Calcium chloride were Procured from CDH, Methanol, Isopropyl alcohol, and Acetic acid were procured from CDH. All other chemicals and reagents were of analytical grade.

Second Stage: Formulation stage

Table 1: Composition of Nanomicelle

S. No.	Formulation Code	Polymer	Drug	PVA	Glutaraldehyde	Chitosan Solution
1	NM-1	28.00%	2 mg	0.25%	100 μ L	10 ml
2	NM-2	14.00%	2 mg	0.25%	100 μ L	10 ml
3	NM-3	28.00%	1 mg	0.25%	100 μ L	10 ml
4	NM-4	14.00%	1 mg	0.50%	100 μ L	10 ml
5	NM-5	28.00%	2 mg	0.50%	100 μ L	10 ml
6	NM-6	14.00%	1 mg	0.25%	100 μ L	10 ml
7	NM-7	14.00%	2 mg	0.50%	100 μ L	10 ml
8	NM-8	28.00%	1 mg	0.50%	100 μ L	10 ml

Preparation of Nanomicelle-

The different formulation of nanomicelle was prepared by varying concentration of poloxamer, Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride, and PVA. The solution of drug in acetic acid and methanol was transferred into a solution of poloxamer and span 20 with continuous stirring at 2000 rpm for 2 hours and kept aside to settle down froth.

Preparation of Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride loaded Pluronic-Chitosan (Plu-Ch) Nanomicelles-

Method of Preparation -

Solvent Emulsification by Using the Triblock Copolymer-10

The method is divided into two stages:

First Stage: Preparation of Reagent Solution-

a) Preparation of Poloxamer Solution-

Poloxamer solution in two concentration was prepared for the 8 formulations. The first concentration being 14%, the solution was prepared by weighing 1.4gm of Poloxamer 407, then adding 0.5 gm followed by a gap than 0.5 gm and finally 0.4gm after a gap to 5 ml water under magnetic stirring, then after a period of 10 min of stirring the remaining 5 ml was added into the beaker and was kept at 3-4°C for 24 hrs. to get a clear solution. A similar procedure for 28% solution i.e. 2.8 gm of Poloxamer 407 was weighed accurately and was transferred to a beaker in three proportions as 1gm then with a gap 1 gm. and finally, 0.8 gm containing 5 ml of water under magnetic stirring. At that point in the wake of mixing for 10 min, the rest of the volume of 5 ml was included, and the container was kept at 3-4°C for 24 hrs to get a reasonable arrangement.

b) Preparation of PVA Solution-

0.25% and 0.5% solution of PVA was prepared by addition of 0.25 and 0.5 gm of PVA into distilled water, volume made up to 100 ml with distilled water only and left for stirring at 70-80 °C, till a clear solution was obtained. The solution formed was cooled at room temperature to be used for formulation.

c) Preparation of Chitosan Solution 0.5%-

Chitosan solution was prepared in Acetic acid solution 1% v/v. Acetic acid 1% solution was made by transferring 1 ml Acetic acid into a 100ml volumetric flask and then raising the volume to 100 ml with distilled water. Then chitosan solution was prepared by weighing 0.5 gm of chitosan and transferring it into 1% Acetic acid solution on magnetic stirring for 3 to 4 hours and then leaving it on overnight standing, to get a chitosan solution that has a little viscosity.

Separately 100 μ L of 1 % glutaraldehyde solution in isopropyl alcohol and chitosan solution (10 ml) was added to the aqueous solution of PVA with continuous stirring for 2 hours.

Now, the solution of poloxamer and drug was added dropwise through a syringe into PVA and chitosan solution at 3000 rpm for 10 hours and kept aside to get a clear

solution without froth. This solution subject to drying at $16^{\circ}\text{C}\pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 12 hours. The obtained powdered sample was cured and stored for further evaluation.

Evaluation Parameters –

Drug Entrapment Efficiency-¹¹

The nanomicelle is evaluated for drug entrapped, by taking a weighed amount of 10 mg and then dissolving that amount in Simulated tear fluid (STF) following magnetic stirring for 24 hrs as in this span all the amount will be diffused from the nanomicelle. After 24 hrs the reading was taken by the help of UV visible spectrophotometer apparatus and through the equation, the value was noted.

% Drug Entrapment Efficiency =

$$\frac{\text{Weight of drug in nanomicelle (calculated)}}{\text{The weight of drug taken to formulate it}} \times 100$$

Measurement of micelle diameter and zeta potential-¹²

The micelles acquired through lyophilization were placed in deionized water and sonicated for 10 min to full scattering of micelles in deionized water. The charge of the molecule (known as the zeta potential) was resolved to utilize a Zeta-sizer 3000. The electrophoretic portability of the micelles was estimated utilizing the laser Doppler anemometer.

FT-IR spectra analysis of Plu-Ch Nanomicelles-¹³

The FTIR spectra of the micelles were taken, by the pellet technique. 5 mg sample was triturated with the 100-150 mg of KBr. An appropriate physical blend was made through trituration yet with a mellow power as unreasonable power may make the micelles disturb up. At that point, this blend was set in the depression for circle planning and was then exposed to pressure through the pressure machine. From that point onward, by utilizing the return pressure the plate was isolated from the circle shaping stand and was put in the circle holder for FTIR examination.

Morphology observation by transmission electron microscopy (TEM)-¹⁴

The micelles got through lyophilization were placed in a liquor arrangement and sonicated for 10 min to full scattering of micelles in a liquor arrangement. The very much scattered micelle arrangement was then dropped onto 400 work carbon-covered copper networks and was put on the broiler to expel lingering liquor through vaporization. The examination of the micelles was performed with a transmission electron magnifying lens.

Thermal analysis of micelles-¹⁴

By using Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), 2 mg of drug and 2 mg of poloxamer were weighed and they were

transferred to the two holders of the DSC apparatus one by one and the procedure was started by setting the temp range from 10 to 500 °C. The temp was increased at 5 °C per minute, and the aluminum was used as the reference. The curve was obtained and was analyzed for the study of the polydispersity of the drug in the polymer.

X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) of Nanomicelle: ¹⁵

The formulation selected from the FTIR and TEM was analyzed for the XRD. Minimum 1 gram of sample was taken, and the slide was prepared of the nanomicelle sample. The sample was then analyzed under XRD through a range of angle from 0° to 150°. This range was selected to give all the possible peaks of the diffraction spectra of the drug when the x rays are bombarded on it. The difference in the peaks was analyzed. If the final formulation will be in crystalline in nature, then the peaks will be sharper otherwise curved and smooth. For nanomicelle, the peaks are needed to be smooth as it would guarantee that the drug is fully dispersed in the polymer.

Turbidity test of Nanomicelles-¹⁶

Various samples were placed in a quartz cuvette containing 100 mL phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution, setting at 34 °C water bath. Transmittance was measured at 271 nm for different time periods by UV-Vis spectrophotometer and turbidity was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Turbidity} = (100 - \% \text{ Transmittance})/100$$

In-Vitro Drug Release-¹⁷

The in vitro drug release study of nanomicelle was done in triplicate in simulated tear fluid having pH 7.2 ± 0.5 . The simulated tear fluid was freshly prepared by using the sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium chloride, and calcium chloride. Dialysis bag of 10 cm was cut from the pile and was moistened in distilled water. The drug contains nanomicelle was loaded in dialysis bag separately, which was suspended in a beaker containing 50 ml simulated tear fluid under continuous stirring maintain at a temperature of $32 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. At a definite time, interval, 1 ml aliquoted was withdrawn and replaced by fresh Simulated tear fluid. Withdrawn samples were analyzed for the drug content by UV-Visible spectrophotometry at a wavelength of 271 nm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Drug Entrapment Efficiency -

The absorbance of the Nanomicelle solution of 10 mg was taken in triplicate and then kept in the equation along with all the multiplication factor to get the exact concentration that was released from the nanomicelle and then kept in the formula to get the entrapment as shown in the table below,

Table 2: % Drug Entrapment Efficiency of Nanomicelle

S.No.	Formulation code	% Drug entrapment
1	NM-1	84.91±3.4029
2	NM-2	82.76±3.3950
3	NM-3	86.97±3.1250
4	NM-4	92.93±6.3827
5	NM-5	98.58±6.8040
6	NM-6	71.55±12.3677
7	NM-7	89.06±3.4112
8	NM-8	90.12±6.4446

The formulation NM-5 showing highest drug entrapment $98.58\% \pm 6.8040$ and the chitosan used do not interfere in the release from the formulation. The modification in the entrapment was basically due to the different concentration of PVA and Poloxamer 407 used, even the amount loaded caused a huge variation in the entrapment. So, on this basis, four formulations were selected for further study.

Measurement of micelle diameter and zeta potential

The particle size and polydispersity index were studied, for the formulation of NM- 5 based on high drug entrapment. The size obtained through this measurement was found to be a little larger than reported only with the Poloxamer, as the

chitosan polymer forms a positive charge layer over it, that increases the size. This layer formed is very useful as it first erodes to release the drug followed by the further release, but this increases the particle size. This layering is of importance as it helps in binding with the inner core of the eye and increases the nanomicelle residence time in the eye and make it feasible for the delayed and prolonged action accompanied with no scarcity of the drug during the treatment. If this layer is not formed than the particles may release the drug in a more prolonged time than the usual and maybe there is a scene of scarcity in the eye for the treatment of infection. Thus, this layering is important.

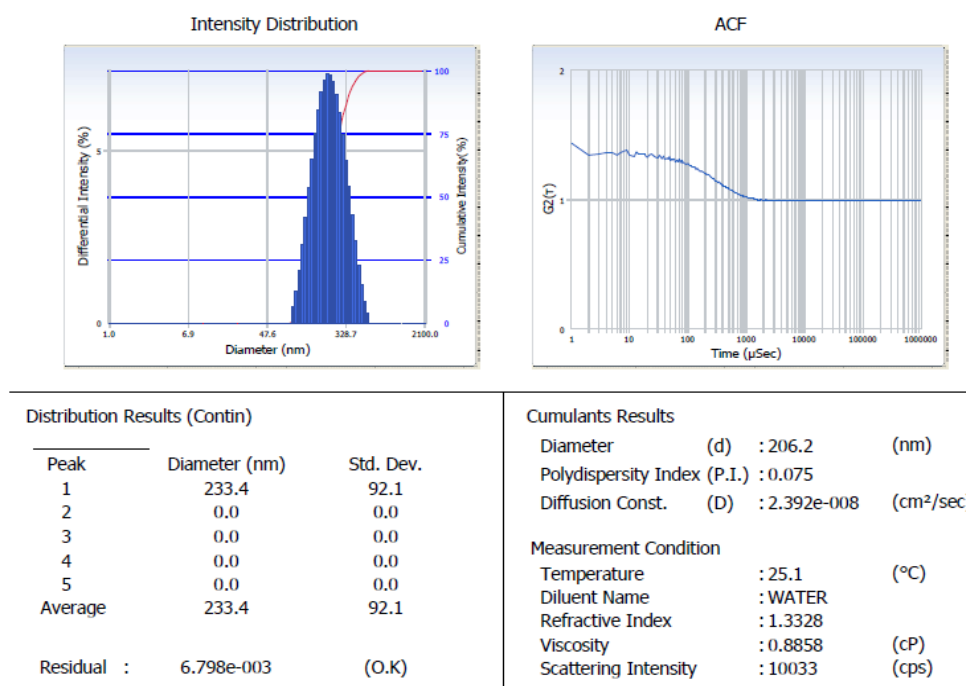


Figure 2: Distribution graph of particle size formulation obtained from zeta sizer.

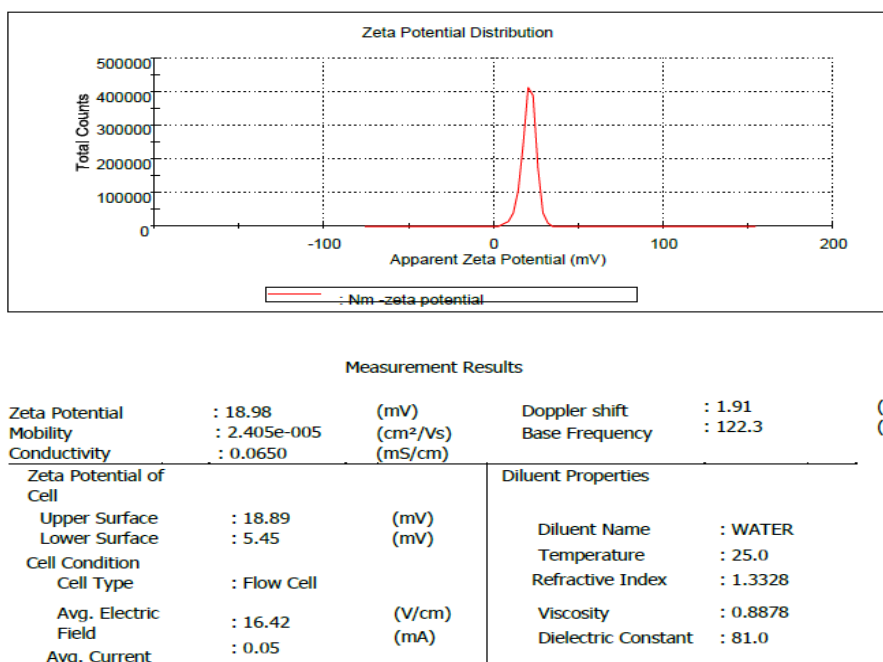


Figure 3: Distribution graph of zeta potential formulation obtained from zeta sizer.

FT-IR spectra analysis of Plu-Ch Nanomicelles-

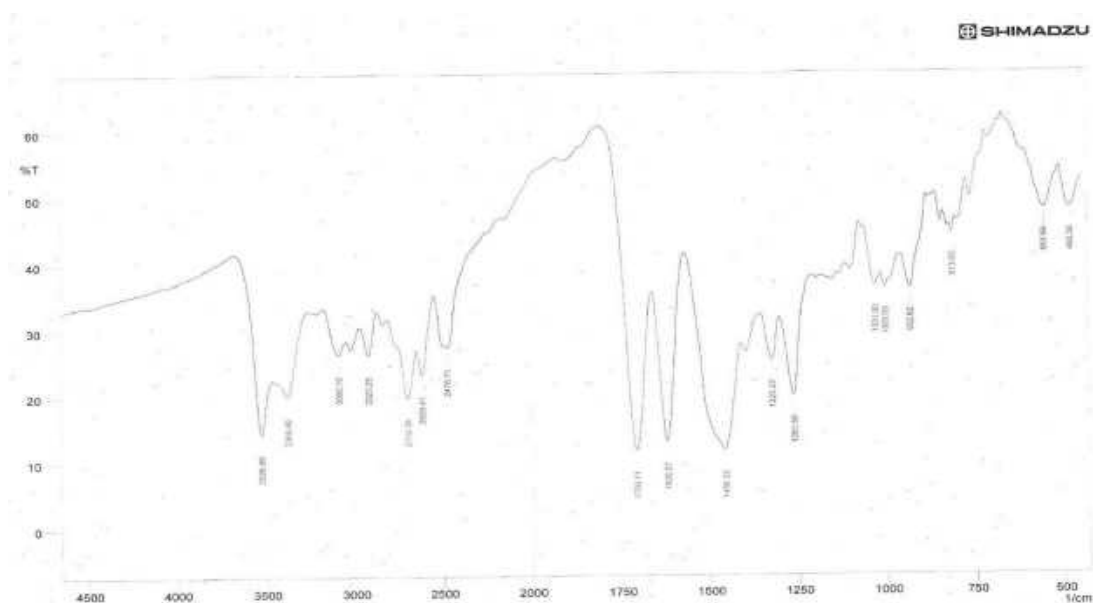


Figure 4: A Chromatogram of FTIR for Cipprofloxacin hydrochloride

Table 4: Interpretation of pure Cipprofloxacin hydrochloride

Characteristic peaks	Peaks (cm ⁻¹)
Hydroxyl group	3526.99
Aromatic cyclic enes	2923.25
CO group of acid	1706.11
Quinolones	1620.27
Carbonyl	1449.51
Hydroxyl (δ O-H bending)	1323.22
Fluorine (C-F stretching)	1031.00

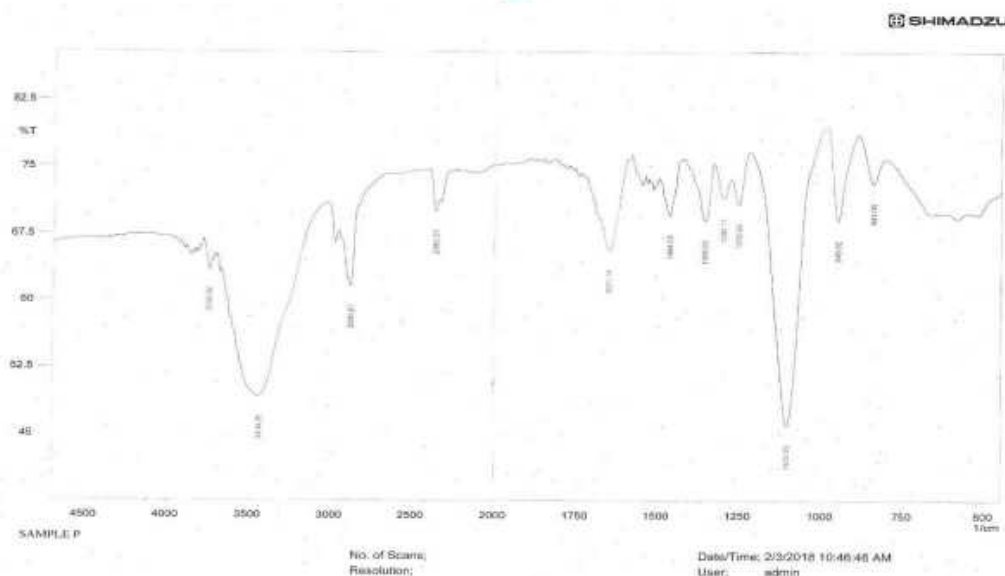


Figure 5: A Chromatogram of FTIR for Poloxamer 407

Table 5: Interpretation of poloxamer 407

S.No.	Characteristic peaks	Peaks(cm ⁻¹)
1.	C-H stretch aliphatic	2893.02
2.	plane O-H bend	1355.86
3.	C-O stretch	1124.42
4.	CH=CR ₂	841

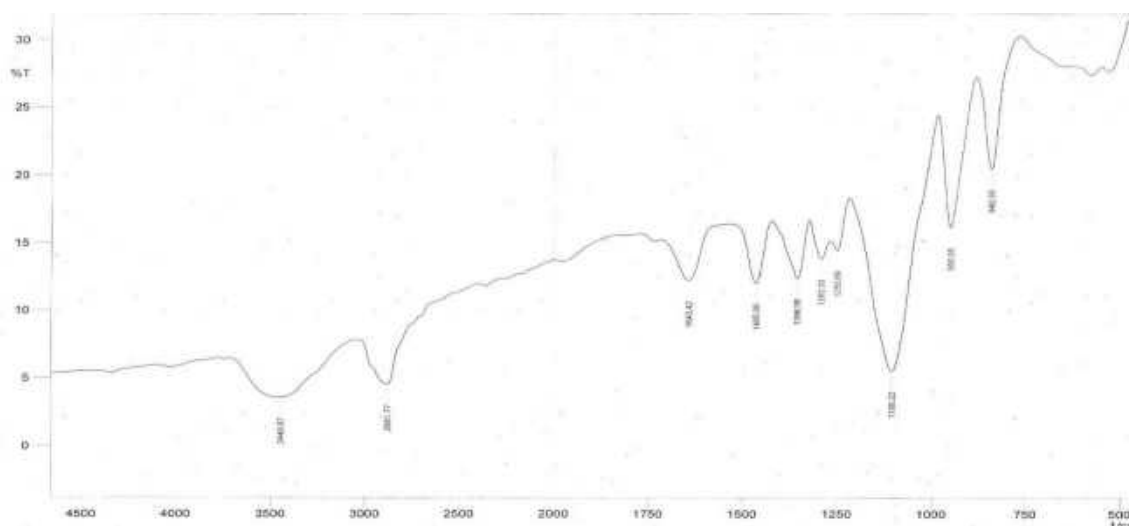


Figure 6: A Chromatogram of FTIR for Nanomicelle

Table 6- Interpretation of drug loaded Nanomicelle

S.N.	Characteristic peaks	Peaks (cm ⁻¹)
1	Hydroxyl group	3448.41
2	Aromatic cyclic enes	2881.71
3	CO group of acid	1712.76
4	Quinolones	1643.42
5	Carbonyl	1465.00
6	Hydroxyl (δ O-H bending)	1356.98
7	Fluorine (C-F stretching)	1106.22
8	C-H stretch aliphatic (polymer)	2879.85 cm ⁻¹
9	O-H bend (polymer)	1356.86 cm ⁻¹
10	C-O stretch (polymer)	1160.42 cm ⁻¹
11	CH=CR ₂ (polymer)	842.93 cm ⁻¹

The peaks increment showed that the drug was completely in the formulation, no more peaks for alcohol or less importance in the -OH peak showed us that the alcohol that was used for the formulation as the dispersing agent has been evaporated and that is not present in the formulation. Peaks showed were almost equivalent to that of the drug, proving that the drug is nicely dispersed in the polymer.

Morphology observation by transmission electron (TEM)-

The TEM analysis of the formulation was done, and the result is as shown in figure 7-9. The particle size was obtained 101 to 131 nm and 98.6 to 99.8 nm for NM-5, as shown in the figures. The results were taken at 40,000 magnification and in a range of 500nm. The cloudy less dense area shows the nanomicelle and the dark spotted area shows the drug. In almost every nanomicelle the drug was entrapped in the micelle, and the nanomicelle obtained is an almost oval or round shape. The nanomicelle thus formed is clear, now the point is of the surface modification. The surface modified nanomicelle must be bigger in size and lie in the range of 100-131nm. This is because the surface was modified by the chitosan layer, that helped in providing a positive charge to the sphere. This charge is created when the arrangement is framed and will empower the medication in official in the eye or in the layers through electrostatic connection, as the eye climate or the layers convey a negative charge, this charge is the principal reason for the nanomicelle through chitosan plan. According to the writing, the polymeric nanomicelle just from Poloxamer will be inside 100 nm, and the nanomicelle after the chitosan layer will have a size greater than the nanomicelle with just the polymer

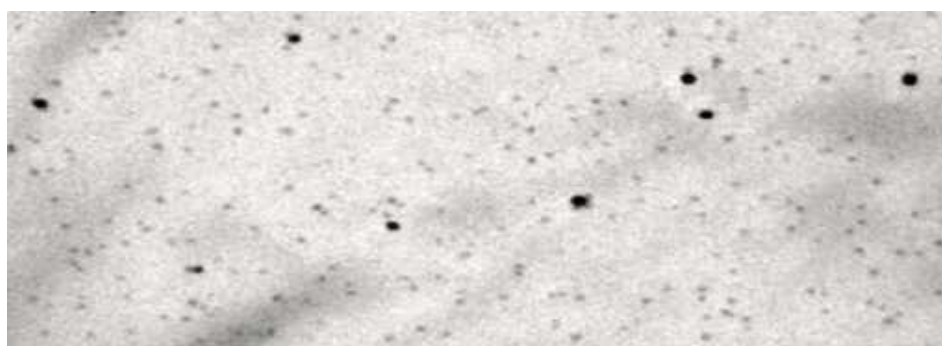


Figure 7: Transmission Electron microscopy of drug loading Nanomicelle

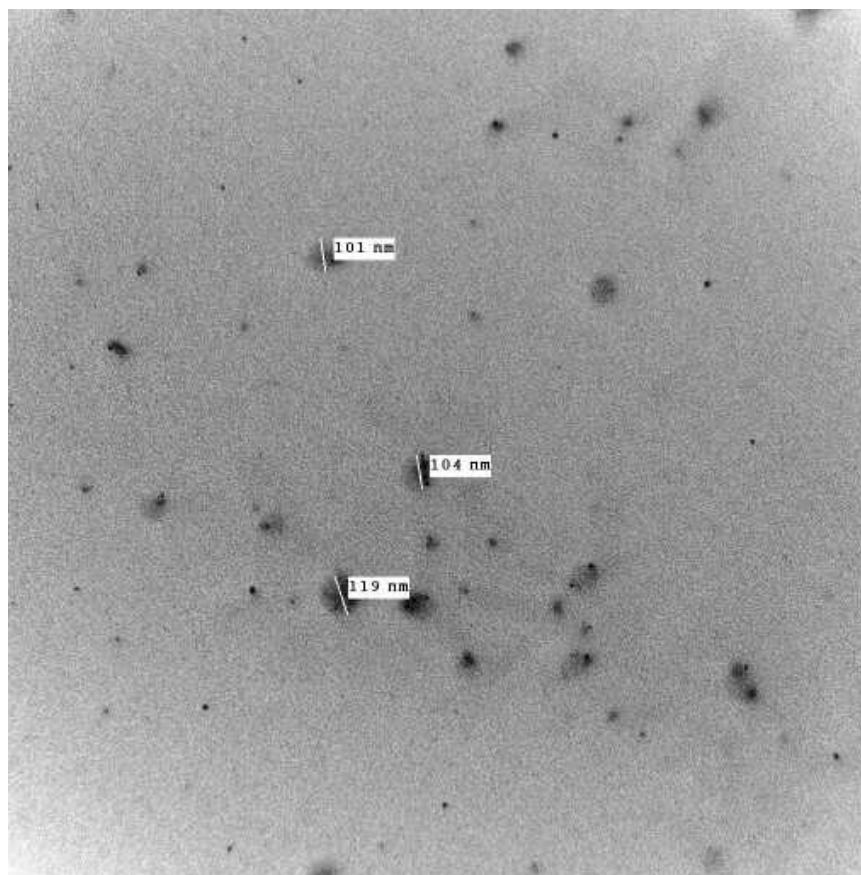


Figure 8: Transmission Electron microscopy of drug loading Nanomicelle with a particle size

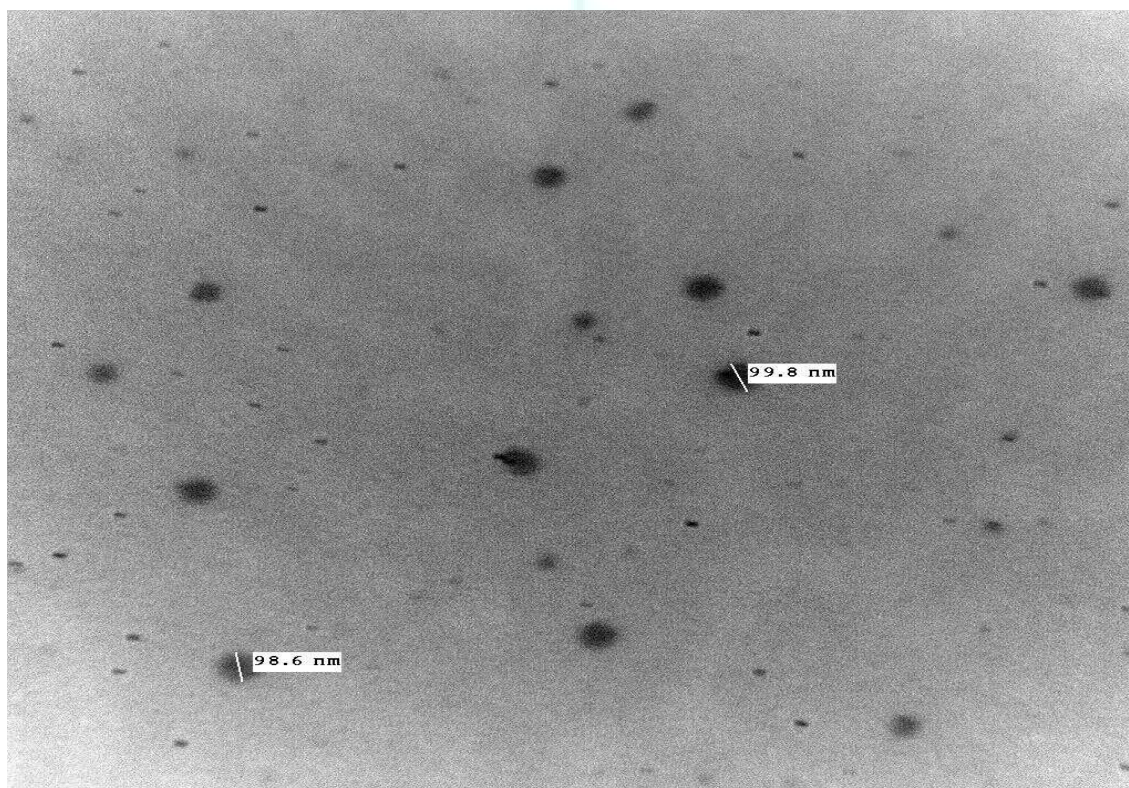


Figure 9: Transmission Electron microscopy of drug loading Nanomicelle with a particle size

Thermal analysis of micelles-

The thermal analysis was carried out the results are as shown in figure 10, and that of the drug at dehydration peak

148.72 °C and the melting point was found to be 323.43°C. The peaks were evaluated, for the proper melting point and were found to be correct. A peak at 117.60 °C in the drug DSC curve showed the presence of moisture.

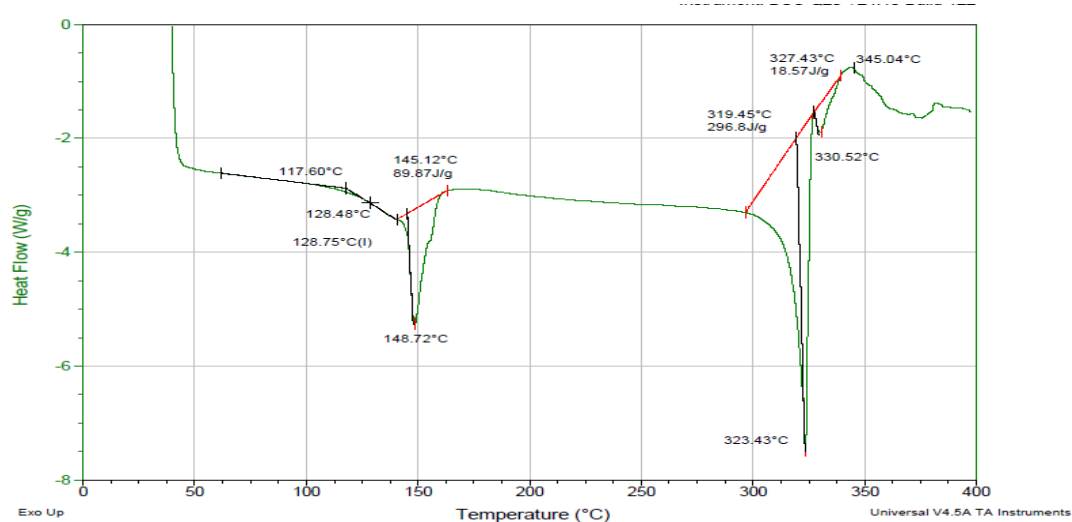


Figure 10: A Representative Chromatogram of DSC for Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride

The DSC of the Poloxamer 407 showed a single peak at the 56.18 °C and in this study the poloxamer 407 is showing the sharp endotherm that means the poloxamer 407 is highly pure and the high temperature showing the degradation of

poloxamer 407 but at the high temperature no endotherm is shown so it represents that's no other material present in the polymer.

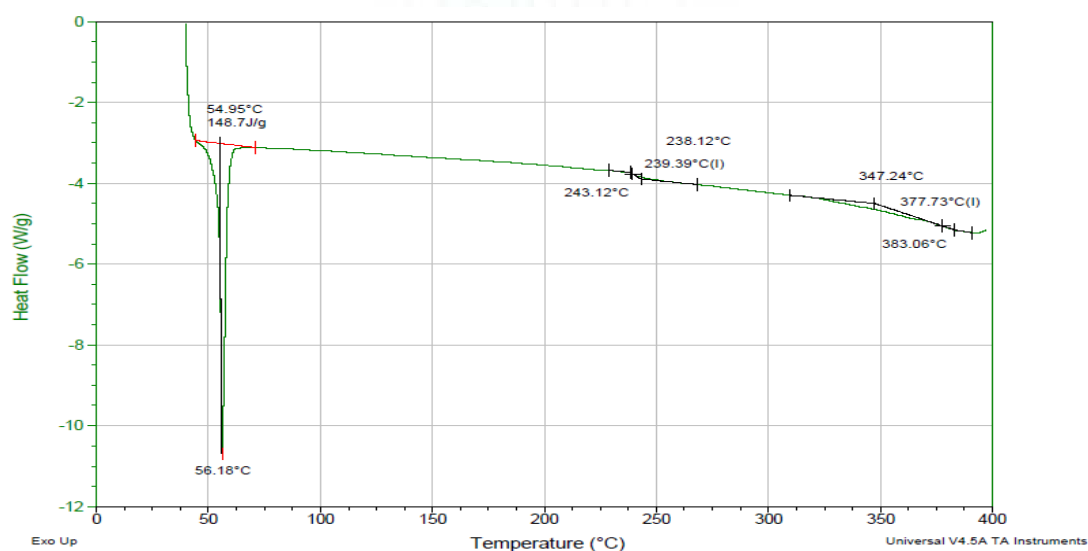


Figure 11: A Representative Chromatogram of DSC for Poloxamer 407

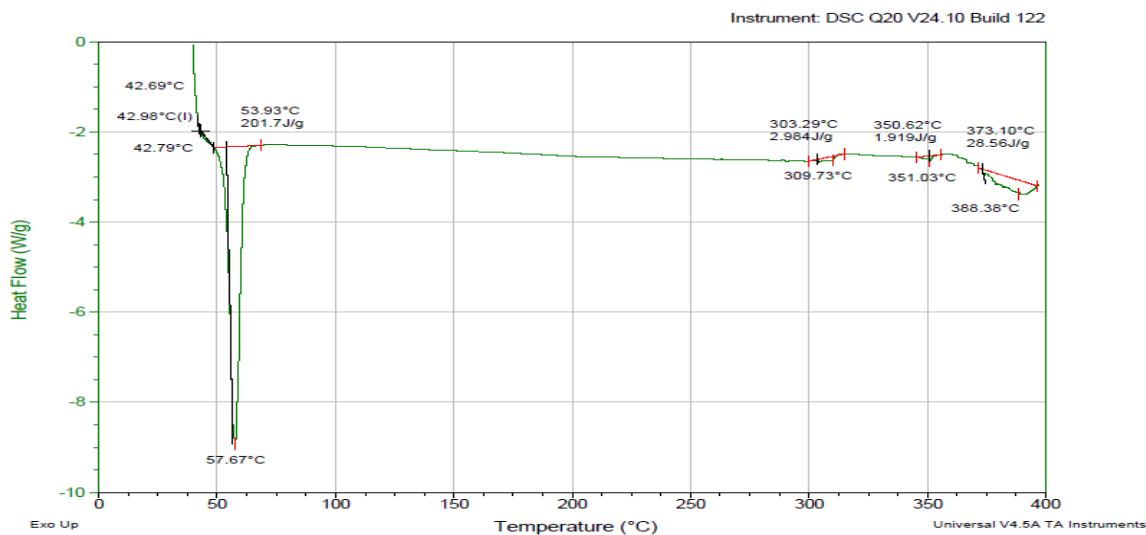


Figure 12: A representative Chromatogram of DSC for Nanomicelle

In figure 12, the endotherm of poloxamer 407 is sharp but the melting point is shift 1°C that's mean the drug is completely entrapped in the polymer and the drug peak has shifted to a long way. The high shift is the reason because the drug is in very less amount as compared to the polymer, even the literature showed that in case of Poloxamer high concentration the shift is always very less and here the percentage is 0.01, meaning a quite low one so a little shift only. In the curve, we only see a little bulge around 323.43 °C, not a peak. This means that the drug is highly dispersed in the polymer and the formulation is a success. So, we can say

that the drug is easily carried by the polymer.

X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) of Nanomicelle:

The nanomicelle so formed was analyzed through powder X-Ray diffractometer. The powder diffraction of the drug was compared with that of the dried nanomicelle. In the spectra of the drug the peaks were quite pointed and sharp, showing the drug is sole present in it. But when the combination was analyzed in the apparatus, the sharp peaks changed to curved. This proved that the drug properly went into the polymer.

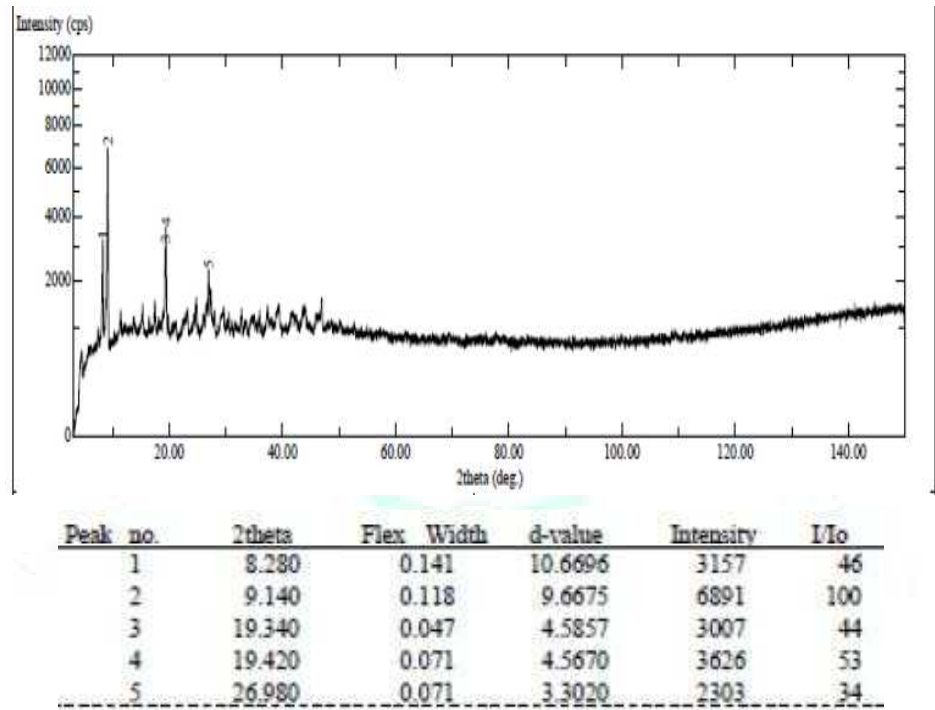


Figure 13: A Chromatogram of X-Ray Diffraction for Ciprofloxacin hydrochloride

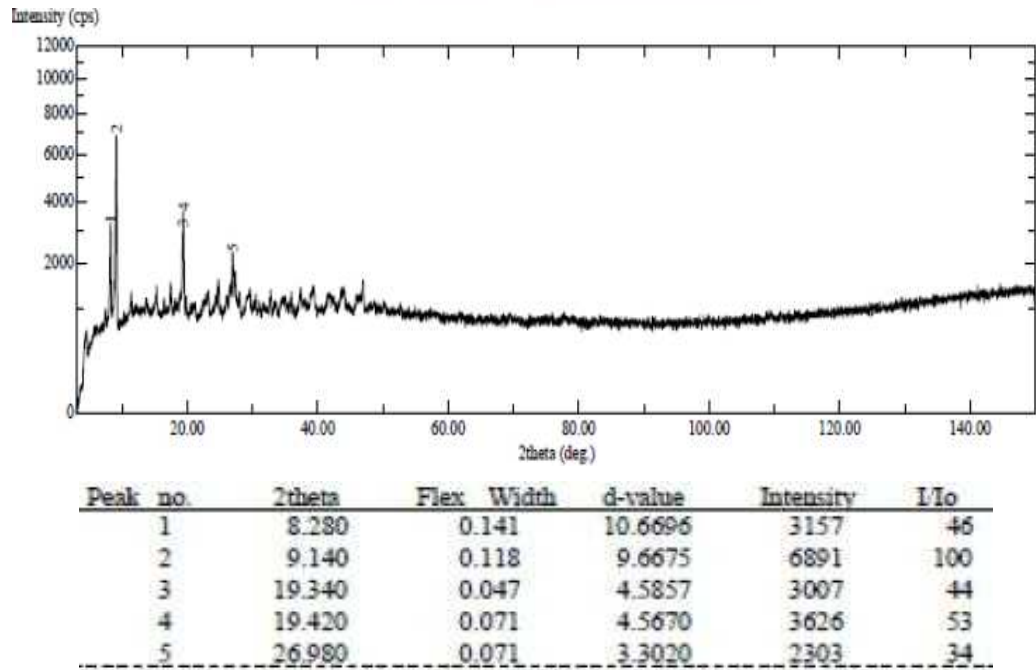


Figure 14: A Chromatogram Diffraction of X-Ray for Nanomicelle

Turbidity test of micelles-

During the time spent ophthalmic medication conveyance utilizing nanomicelle, suspension with outrageous fixation may cause obscure in eyes. To keep from the disability of vision without bringing down the grouping of medications during the time spent the treatment, turbidity explore was directed in a domain reenacting the eyes. When absorbing micelles Simulated tear fluid arrangement, turbidity, which expands molecule distance across as well as turbidity; besides, it is discovered that turbidity demonstrates an upward pattern with time, which is credited to the extraordinary union in nanoscale protests as Nanoparticles in the suspension arrangement will, in general, accumulate after some time. Such assembling builds molecule distance across and brings down the light entrance, prompting expanding turbidity.

The turbidity of the considerable number of tests increments with expanding splashing time; yet their turbidities are for the most part under 0.2 subsequent to absorbing Simulated tear fluid for 0-hour, 6 hour and 12 hours. shows that light transmission $\geq 90\%$ (i.e., turbidity ≤ 0.1) is characterized as straightforward, 10–90% is translucent, and one lower than 10% is obscure. 80% of straightforwardness (turbidity = 0.2) is as far as possible for vision turbidity which does not make a foggy vision. It is discovered that suspensions of nanomicelle arranged in this investigation to keep up their unique lucidity when controlled to the eyes, their straightforwardness manufactures in the suitable range, which makes them a potential application in the ophthalmic medication.

Table 7: Turbidity analysis of Nanomicelle

TURBIDITY ANALYSIS						
S.NO.	AVG. % Trans.	Turbidity	AVG. % Trans	Turbidity	AVG. % Trans.	Turbidity
-	(ZERO HR)		(6 HR)		(12 HR)	-
NM-1	95.7	0.031	92.5	0.061	90.2	0.084
NM-2	98.4	0.021	95.7	0.049	90.7	0.098
NM-3	96.6	0.041	91.6	0.087	89.1	0.099
NM-4	96.7	0.033	93.5	0.065	91.2	0.088
NM-5	98.2	0.018	95.4	0.046	90.4	0.096
NM-6	97.3	0.029	92.7	0.078	90.8	0.098
NM-7	96.1	0.039	91.2	0.088	89.8	0.102
NM-8	97.4	0.026	92.5	0.075	90.5	0.095

In-Vitro Drug Release-

The Nanomicelle solution of 10 mg Nanomicelle in Simulated tear fluid was analyzed through the absorbance recording corresponding to each sample withdrawn at the predefined intervals was taken by the help of UV-Vis Spectrophotometer. These absorbances were noted after sufficient dilution to get

a value in the Beer-Lambert range. The release of the drug was calculated, and the pattern of release was studied where it was found that it showed a slow initial release till 30 min to 840 min. All formulations were showing initially burst release and then a sustained release to achieved 100% drug released.

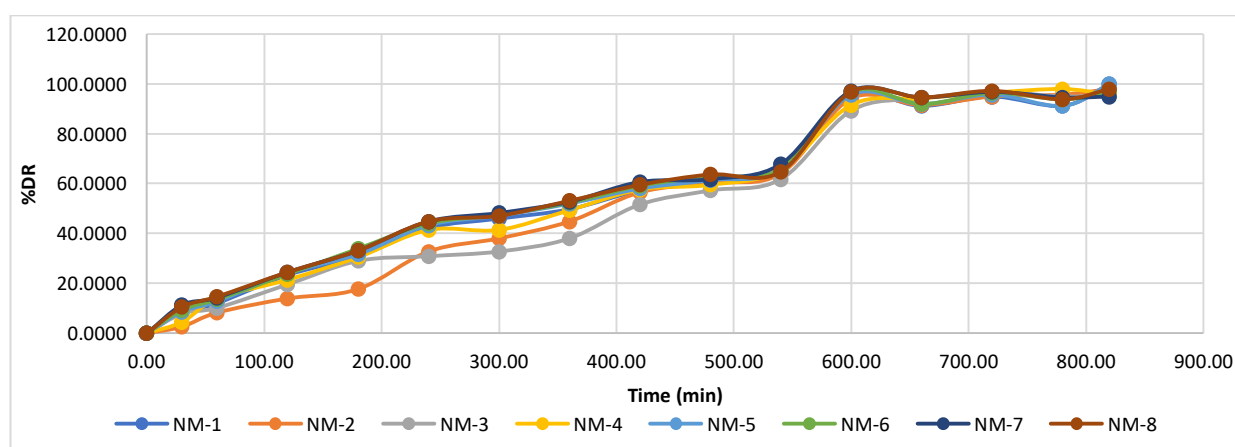


Figure 15: In vitro evaluation of Nanomicelles

The Vitro tests for Nanomicelles were studied and the final results were produced in figure 15 rapid release of polymeric nanomicelle during the initial stages was observed in Nano formulations. This could be due to the

desorption and diffusion of poloxamer from the outer surface of micelles. It is always preferred initial burst from the controlled drug delivery systems to attain a threshold dose for proper elicitation of therapeutic action. After the

initial rapid release, poloxamer micelles showed a constant slow and sustained release and the maximum drug was released in, whereas the drug formulation showed the initial constant slow release.

All formulation was shown the maximum amount of drug release within of its administration. The slow release pattern of micelles after initial rapid release had been reported earlier and our system was consistent with the literature and showed slow diffusion from micelles. Also showed a slow and sustained release with the maximum drug release at hrs. To maintain safer therapeutic concentrations of a drug for a stipulated time, always a slow and sustained drug release formulation is desirable to avoid any toxic systemic effects. Hence, we suggest that the poloxamer micelles offer an effective controlled drug delivery system with reduced systemic side effects and enhanced targeting efficiency.

CONCLUSION

In this study, Pluronic chitosan-based nanomicelle were successfully prepare ophthalmic delivery by incorporation of methyl alcohol as a dispersing agent and chitosan worked as a surface modifier which helps to their bioavailability. The physicochemical characterization of Pluronic-Chitosan nanomicelle including diameter, surface charge, morphology, turbidity, loading efficiency and drug entrapment that they are exceptionally appropriate to use as an ophthalmic bearer. In vitro, micelles have supported discharge conduct and better therapeutic reaction. The framework gives enhancing understanding consistency to visual medication conveyance.

Conflicts of interest

There is no conflicting interest between of authors.

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